

In re Patent Application of:  
CHAPMAN ET AL.  
Serial No. 09/596,629  
Filing Date: June 19, 2000

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In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7,  
line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b1 An invention disclosure process according to the  
present invention is implemented in an intranet 10, as shown  
in FIG. 1. This intranet 10 may be localized within a  
corporation or business site, or may even be configured to  
link more than one division of a corporation together. The  
intranet is separated from the rest of the internet by a  
firewall, which is a hardware/software combination that  
protects the intranet from an unauthorized user, as readily  
understood by one skilled in the art.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7,  
line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b2 A key component of the intranet is an e-mail system  
and a web browser for implementing the invention disclosure  
process. The e-mail system may use normal internet e-mail  
addresses, except that it routes traffic within an  
organization so the e-mail need not travel outside the  
intranet. Internal routers 13 and mail servers 15 send the  
mail to other corporation employees via the intranet. E-mail  
that travels to and from the internet ~~from the intranet~~ must  
go through the firewall. The invention disclosure process  
thus may also be implemented over the internet using an  
encrypted or secured connection. For instance, remote sites  
are able to upload information to the intranet database server  
10.

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✓  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7,  
line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b3  
E-mail messages are easily transmitted and received  
between users within the intranet 10 for providing  
notification and status of a particular invention disclosure.  
Furthermore, hyperlinks embedded within selected e-mail  
messages ~~allows~~ allow a user to access a particular invention  
disclosure, as will be described in greater detail below.

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✓  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8,  
line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b4  
Information necessary for the invention disclosure  
process is stored within the database server 16. In one  
embodiment, the intranet 10 uses active server web pages  
instead of static web pages, as readily understood by one  
skilled in the art. The web server 14 thus uses the active  
server pages to interact with the database server 16 to  
extract the necessary information and construct each hypertext  
markup language (html) page to be provided to the user.  
Whenever a change is made to any of the displays of the  
invention disclosure forms, these displays are automatically  
updated by the web server 14 so that each time a user logs  
into the invention disclosure process, the web server 14  
provides the updated pages. Referring now to FIG. 2, a high  
level flow chart illustrating how an invention disclosure is  
created and evaluated over an intranet 10 in accordance with  
the present invention will be described. From the start

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b4  
(Block 20), the primary inventor creates an invention disclosure using a template form provided by the server 12 at ~~Block 21~~. Once the invention disclosure has been completed, the primary inventor has a number of available options which will be described in greater detail below.

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Please ~~replace~~ the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b5  
Once the primary inventor is satisfied with the contents of the invention disclosure, the disclosure is then submitted to the server 12 at ~~Block 23~~. In response, the server 12 automatically creates a profile of the invention disclosure at ~~Block 24~~. This profile is based on the functional and technical area relating to the invention disclosure. In one embodiment, the profile includes the functional manager of the primary inventor, an intellectual property representative (e.g., a patent attorney or a paralegal), a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government contract. The contracts person is associated with the inventor's business and technical areas. The profile also includes specific information relating to the primary inventor, such as the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address. The created profile for the submitted invention disclosure is automatically stored in a preselected database. This database may be part of the server 12, or may be a separate database.

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✓  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10,  
line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b6  
After the invention disclosure has been submitted  
and profiled, a first notification message is automatically  
transmitted via e-mail to a first group of users at Block ~~26~~  
24. The intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled  
therein with each user having associated personnel information  
stored within the intranet. The first group of users are part  
of this plurality of users.

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✓  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10,  
line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b7  
Simultaneous to creating the first notification  
message, a second notification message is created. The second  
notification message includes a hyperlink to the invention  
disclosure. This second notification message is transmitted  
via e-mail over the intranet to a second group of users at  
Block ~~28~~ 26. The hyperlink allows the invention disclosure to  
be viewed by clicking the web browser on the hyperlink. The  
second group of users ~~are~~ is also part of the plurality of  
users enrolled within the intranet.

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✓  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11,  
line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b8  
The technical review coordinator selects at least  
one evaluator to review and evaluate the submitted invention  
disclosure at Block 30. Once the server 12 receives a name of

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b8  
the evaluator, a third notification message is automatically created and transmitted via e-mail to this evaluator at Block ~~32~~ 28. The third notification message also includes a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

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✓  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b9  
Evaluation comments generated and transmitted by the evaluator are provided to the server 12 at ~~Block 34~~. These evaluation comments can then be reviewed by the technical review coordinator at Block ~~36~~ 30. The technical review coordinator makes a final recommendation of the invention disclosure based upon the evaluation comments provided by the evaluator. If the technical review coordinator needs additional information, another evaluator could be selected to review and evaluate the invention disclosure. This final recommendation is automatically transmitted via e-mail to the first and second group of users at Block ~~38~~ 32. The invention disclosure process is finished at ~~Block 40~~.

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✓  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b10  
Yet another option available to the primary inventor is to include an attachment. Attachments, such as word documents, power point presentations, ~~etc,~~ etc. can be attached to the invention disclosure. The primary inventor selects the appropriate option as shown in display portion 90 in FIG. 11 to obtain a display for adding attachments, as

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b1D shown in FIGS. 16-20. The primary inventor selects a file on his individual computer 18 and uploads the file to the server 12. Attachments can be made until the invention disclosure is submitted.

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✓ Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b11 Selecting from the options field ~~98~~ 50 as shown in FIG. 32, the evaluator selects the text "evaluated a technical disclosure form." This causes the technical/business evaluation displays to be viewed, as shown in FIGS. 33-35. Information to be provided by the evaluator includes technical evaluation factors as shown in field 100, and alternatives as shown in field 102. Several business evaluation factors fields are also provided as shown in field 104, followed by a general comments field 106. Once the evaluation form has been filled out, the evaluator saves the form, which then provides a saved status to the evaluator, as shown in FIG. 36.

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✓ Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b12 In response to the evaluation form being saved, an e-mail notification message is sent to the review committee coordinator, as shown in FIG. 37. Review of the actual evaluation form is viewable by selecting the hyperlink provided in the e-mail notification message. The committee review coordinator selects the committee coordinator review option in field ~~120~~ 50, as shown in FIG. 38. The committee

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b12  
review coordinator reviews the same display previously provided for selecting the evaluator. Herein, the committee review coordinator can select review of the completed technical/business evaluation form, as partially shown in FIG. 40. The committee review coordinator then assigns a final recommendation selecting from search, publish, close, or protect as a trade secret, as shown in FIGS. 41-42.

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← Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b13  
After the committee review coordinator selects the recommendation, an e-mail notification message is sent to the IP administrator and other applicable personnel, as shown in FIG. 43. These other personnel include the first and second ~~group~~ groups of users as described above. The first and second ~~group~~ groups of users are determined based upon the created profile of the invention disclosure. In one embodiment, the users include the applicable business area manager, the supervisor of the primary inventor, the primary inventor and co-inventors, the technical review coordinator, and a contract administrator if the invention was developed under a government contract.

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← Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b14  
Other functions available within the invention disclosure process ~~includes~~ include viewing prior invention disclosures, as shown in FIG. 44, and updating functional area

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b14  
information, as shown in FIG. 45. In addition to distributing an invention disclosure over the intranet as just described, a technical paper approval process will be now be described with reference to FIGS. 46-48. The technical paper approval process is similar to the invention disclosure process and can be accessed from the invention disclosure process, as shown in field 50 in FIG. 3.

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✓  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 36, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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b15  
The intranet system used to implement the invention disclosure process can also interface with a docketing database system, such as the program sold by Computer Packaging in Rockville, Maryland. More particularly, the profile information entered into the database server by the inventor when the invention disclosure is created is also provided to the docketing database. The information pertaining to the profile (e.g., critical date information, contract information, reduction to practice information, etc.) ~~Of~~ of each invention disclosure is provided to the docketing database. The docketing database can then be used to set schedules and/or various events in the invention disclosure process.

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